

HEAD LINES

Fall 2007

IMPROVING LIFE AFTER TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

State of the State Conference Huge Success

Hundreds of people from across Alabama attended the first annual State of the State in Traumatic Brain Injury Conference hosted by AHIF and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services this past February. Sessions conducted by top experts in the field focused on two situations: 1) brain injury and behavioral disorders and 2) brain injury with visual impairment.

Tom Novack, Ph.D., Director of the UAB-TBI Model System, Spain Rehabilitation Center, was the keynote speaker at the Conference. Presenters included Dr. Mary Hibbard; Dr. Jo Anne Hamrick; Lenore Hawley, MSW, CBIT and Joy Newman, MA, CCC; Lynn Campisi, Esq.; and Dr. Joe Ackerson.

AACBIS Certification Earned by AHIF Staff

Congratulations are in order for AHIF recreation staff Susie Montgomery and Tina Adamson as well as AHIF Resource Coordinators John Hicks, Pat Motley, Sandy Kiplinger, Teresa Roberts, and Lucia Parsons! During the conference, these AHIF staff members passed the exams to receive the Certification of Brain Injury Specialists (CBIS).

The program is governed by the American Academy for the Certification of Brain Injury Specialists (AACBIS) and is administered by the Brain Injury Association of America in McClean, VA. The training and certification exam is intended for

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Alabama Addresses Behavioral Health Needs of Citizens Disabled by Traumatic Brain Injury

During the 2007 Special Session of the Alabama State Legislature, a resolution was passed urging all state agencies and private organizations receiving state funds to work with the Alabama Head Injury Foundation and the Alabama Head Injury Task Force to develop plans to address the behavioral health needs of citizens disabled by TBI.

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Mobile Latest Location for AHIF Accessible Housing

Once again, AHIF is providing accessible housing opportunities in Alabama. On January 26, 2006, AHIF Executive Director Charles Priest accepted an 811 HUD award for the Anderson-Fischer Apartments in Mobile. This is the third accessible apartment project AHIF is developing in partnership with Accessible Space Incorporated (ASI). Groundbreaking will be held in the fall of 2008. A total of \$3,022,400 has been secured for this project!

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Events Across the State Fund AHIF

From the fishing lakes of North Alabama to the tennis courts of Birmingham to the stately homes of Mobile, individuals support the programs of AHIF. Turn to pages 3-4 for details of these events

- Inverness Member-Guest Tennis Tournament
- The Jimmy League Memorial Bream Rodeo
- Watkins Law Firm Fundraiser
- Mobile Holiday Home Tour

Accessible Housing

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Accessible and affordable independent housing for persons disabled by traumatic brain injury has been a priority of AHIF since the 1990's. In 1997, the organization raised \$25,000 to hire ASI of St. Paul, Minnesota to develop a HUD application for Patton Ridge Apartments in Hoover. In 1998, AHIF and local families in the Shoals area raised money for an additional HUD application for Dogwood Terrace Apartments in Florence. Both applications were awarded funding and support from the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta.

Dogwood Terrace Apartments was ready for occupancy in 2004 and in 2006, Patton Ridge Apartments were opened. Both have one and two bedroom units. Amenities at Patton Ridge and Dogwood Terrace include spacious accessible kitchens, roll-in showers in large accessible bathrooms, carpeted bedroom(s) and living room, generous closets and storage, and window blinds. Common areas feature a Community Room, outdoor patio, library/parlor, controlled access entry system, on-site laundry facilities and off street parking,

Apartment applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a traumatic brain injury and/or other physical disability, and meet other relevant selection criteria including applicable income limits. All apartment units are HUD subsidized - qualifying individuals will pay approximately 30% of their gross adjusted monthly income for rent, and are given allowances for utility costs and for having a physical disability, including TBI. One adult household member must have a qualifying disability. Households must pass required rental, criminal, and credit history search.

Accessible Space, Inc. manages the day to day operations of the apartments in the Shoals and Hoover. For more information, or to receive a housing application contact Accessible Space, Inc. at 1-800-466-7722 or www.accessiblespaceinc.org.

Improving Alabama's System of Services for People with TBI Alabama State TBI Grant Update

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS), the lead agency for TBI in Alabama, received funding from the Health Resources Services Administration for a three-year TBI State Implementation Grant in April 2006. This grant will enable Alabama to improve the system of services for people with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and their families. The Alabama Head Injury Task Force will provide oversight and guidance for grant activities. The goals of this three year grant are to:

- Expand the statewide system of care for people with coexisting TBI and blindness or visual impairment (TBI-BVI) including improved outreach to the states' growing Hispanic population
- Create access to neurobehavioral health services for Alabamians with TBI

ADRS and partners worked together during the past year to develop plans and implement activities to address these goals. ADRS Blind/Deaf Services Division provided leadership for Goal One; the Alabama Head Injury Foundation took the lead on Goal Two. Highlights of year one include:

- A pilot project of the ADRS Blind/ Deaf Services Division addressing the special needs of people with TBI who are blind or visually impaired
- Seven town hall meetings throughout the state held by The Alabama Head Injury Foundation to obtain input from consumers and family members who need help in addressing behavioral health needs
- A joint resolution by the Alabama Legislature "urging state agencies and public or private organizations receiving state funds to assist in the development of behavioral health services for survivors of traumatic brain injury" through leadership by the Alabama Head Injury Foundation
- The First Annual Alabama: State of the State in Traumatic Brain Injury Conference focusing on TBI and visual impairment and TBI and behavioral health issues was held in February 2007

ADRS and partners will continue to work together to accomplish the goals of this grant and improve the system of care for people with TBI and their families. Activities planned for year two of the grant include:

- ADRS Blind/Deaf Services Division will incorporate the screening of consumers with BVI for TBI into the existing system of services.
- ADRS Blind/Deaf Services Division will incorporate appropriate methods of intervention to address the special needs of people with BVI and TBI into the Division's existing system of services.
- AHIF will take the lead in outreach and collaboration with key leaders and partners in the state on collaborative efforts, joint grant opportunities, policy changes and potential sources of funding for behavioral health services.
- The Second Annual Alabama State of the State in Traumatic Brain Injury Conference will be held in February 2008.

For information about this grant contact:

Maria Crowley, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
phone: (205) 290-4590, email: Maria.Crowley@rehab.alabama.gov

7th Annual Jimmy League Memorial Bream Rodeo

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AACBIS

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paraprofessionals and professionals at all levels who want a strong foundation in the best practices in brain injury rehabilitation. Applicants may attend training or train through self-study to prepare themselves to take the certification examination.

Candidates must complete the required work experience and training and then must pass a national written examination. To receive certification, candidates must pass the examination with a grade of 80 or above.

AHIF is proud to have such outstanding employees dedicated to giving the best service possible to individuals with TBI and their families.



*Thank you!
 We appreciate
 the support of
 committee members,
 sponsors and
 all who attend
 AHIF events*

Watkins Law Firm Fundraiser

Josh & Ann Watkins hosted a Low Country Barbeque at the Homewood law firm where Josh is the managing partner. AHIF has played an important role for his family since his only brother received a traumatic brain injury in a motorcycle accident several years ago.

Committee:

Josh Watkins
 Ann Watkins
 Kacy Summers
 Ashley Neese
 Mary Michael Neese
 Jeremy Hazelton
 Amy Hazelton

Mobile Holiday Home Tour

A Christmas Tour of Homes in the Oakleigh Historic District of Mobile was held last December to benefit Alabama Head Injury Foundation consumers in Baldwin, Clarke, Mobile and Washington Counties.

Guests were personally welcomed by the owners of four beautiful homes. Representing AHIF were Dr. Roma Hanks, Dr. Raymond and Stella Hester, Dave Johnson and Cecelia Murphy, as well as Don and Anita Winn.

Tournament Committee

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Dodd Adair | Jim & Cyndi Kiel |
| Omar Alcaino | Buddy McDaniel |
| Tom Armstrong | Jerry Nixon |
| Keith Belt | Carrie Phillips |
| Rick & Char Bonsack | Paula Ponder |
| Art Boudreaux | Charlie Priest |
| Pamela Bradford | Robert Rourke |
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| Mark Gallivan | Vicki Vickers |
| Deane & Ron Giles | Richie Vines |
| Ken & Ann Horne | Jack Woodard |
| Jim & Linda Hutton | |



**11th Annual
Inverness Member-Guest Tennis
Tournament**

The loyal support of avid tennis players at Inverness Racquet Club has made possible eleven years of tennis tournaments benefitting AHIF.

This years' event was held May 4-6. As always the tournament action took place at the Inverness Racquet Club where Omar Alcaino and Jerry Nixon are the pro's. Winners of the tournament were: Women Doubles "A" Division: **Kelli Collins, Amy Wells**; Women Doubles "B" Division: **Sharon Bynum, Julie Rinks**; Women Doubles "C" Division: **Veronica McGee, Kelly Sullivan**; Men Doubles "A" Division: **Rick Bonsack, Larry Wells**; Men Doubles "B" Division: **Lynn Randall, Buddy Jessup**; Men Doubles "C" Division: **Robert Holton, Mason Dove**; Mixed Doubles "A" Division: **Martha Douglas, Mark Kiel**; and Mixed Doubles "B" Division: **Jake Shelton, Lana Boozer**.

A reception was held Friday night at the Inverness Country Club and on Saturday night the weekend's highlight, the Dinner/ Auction was hosted by **Deanne & Ron Giles** at their lovely home.

2007 Silent Auction Donors

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
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| -Jim & Cyndi Kiel | Matt Phillips |
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| Thomas Dudney, DMD | Alan Schweer |
| Rhonda Dykes | Seascape Resort |
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| European Kitchens | -Richie Vines |
| EyeCare Associates | Yuri Shapockka |
| -Dr. Jim Skoney | John Smith |
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| 4 Your Health | Studio 21 Salon |
| Mark Gallivan | Superior Grill |
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| Deane & Ron Giles | The Bakery at Culinard |
| Gotcha Covered | The Reply Group |
| Ken and Ann Horne | The Restaurant at Culinard |
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| Indigo Joe's Sports Pub & Bar | -Glenn Toney |
| Infinity Med-I-Spa | Leslie Tomlinson |
| Interiorscapes | Thompson's Frame Factory |
| Inverness Country Club | Dr. Tracey Thomson |
| Inverness Golf & Repair | Dr. David Todd |
| Joe's Crab Shack | Trade Winds Partners |
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The Resolution is a Senate Joint Resolution introduced by Senator Linda Coleman and Co-Sponsored by the entire Alabama State Senate! The Resolution will be most helpful in the development of a strategic plan, identifying collaborative opportunities and promoting systems change in this much needed area. The actual resolution follows:

Senate Joint Resolution

Urging State Agencies and public or private organizations receiving state funds to assist in the development of behavioral health services for survivors of traumatic brain injuries.

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, some 1.5 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury each year, with 50,000 of those individuals dying as a result of their injuries, and approximately 5.3 million Americans live with disabilities resulting from brain injury, including 74,000 Alabama residents; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with severe brain injury may have serious physical, perceptual, cognitive, psychiatric, emotional, and behavioral complications, including impaired interpersonal and problem solving skills, memory loss, decreased thought-processing abilities and speech, seizure disorders, and paralysis; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with brain injuries often have disrupted cognitive functioning and, as a result, the ability to understand and control behavior is diminished; and

WHEREAS, The Traumatic Brain Injury Act, which was first enacted in 1996 and reauthorized in 2000, is the only federal law that specifically addresses the issues faced by children and adults with traumatic brain injury and represents a foundation for coordinated and balanced public policy in prevention, education, research, and community living for persons living with a traumatic brain injury and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act directs the Health Resources and Services Administration to make grants to the various states to coordinate, expand, and enhance service delivery systems to improve access to services and supports; and

WHEREAS, Funding derived from the Traumatic Brain Injury Act has been used to benefit the brain injury community in Alabama, and has been used for the following specific purposes: to train and support teachers, domestic violence shelter workers and mental health professionals, outreach to target populations with high incidence of brain injury; to develop resources for families, clergy, and educators; to implement regional seminars for purposes of improving understanding of and response to persons with brain injury and their families; and to develop a system of response and support for children disabled by brain injury and their families; and

WHEREAS, In April 2006, the Health Resources and Services Administration announced an award to Alabama of funding to stimulate the development of appropriate, affordable and accessible behavioral health services for Alabamians disabled by traumatic brain injury; and

WHEREAS, Under the direction of the Grantee, The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, and under the guidance of the Alabama Head Injury Task Force, the Alabama Head Injury Foundation has agreed to lead this effort in collaboration with the project's additional partners including the UAB Traumatic Brain Injury Model System, the UAB Injury Control Research Center, the Alabama Disability Advocacy Program, and the Alabama Impaired Drivers Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, The full participation and cooperation of each state agency, department, board and authority, and public or private organization receiving state funds is necessary to achieving success with this worthwhile project; and

WHEREAS, Potential outreach and collaborative opportunities among numerous agencies will be explored; and

WHEREAS, A statewide strategic plan addressing this critical need will be developed, including agreements between and among key leadership in Alabama, and including recommendations for public policy initiatives to achieve the plan's goals; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby urge each state agency, department, board and authority, and public or private organization receiving state funds to participate with the Alabama Head Injury Foundation and the Alabama Head Injury Task Force in the development of plans and initiatives to address the behavioral health needs of Alabamians disabled by traumatic brain injury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent forthwith to each state department and agency that they may know of our concerns in this matter.



True Blue Campaign: Bracelets Show Support for AHIF

The Steering Committee for Mobile is selling blue silicone bracelets to raise awareness for AHIF and to earn money for their local group. The bracelets are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. To purchase bracelets, you can contact either Teresa Roberts, our Mobile/ Southwest Alabama Resource Coordinator or Melissa Slater, representing the Mobile Steering Committee. Teresa can be reached by phone at 251-246-5003 or you can email her at troberts@mindspring.com. Melissa can be reached by phone at 251-776-8863 or you can email her at truebluecampaign@yahoo.com

The blue AHIF bracelets were donated to the group by Ms. Leslie Cutts of Mobile. Ms. Cutts is not only an AHIF supporter but also a TBI survivor.

In order to raise awareness of the accomplishments AHIF is making in helping survivors of TBI all over Alabama, we encourage everyone to purchase a bracelet and wear it wherever you go. Let's all be True Blue-Dedicated to Improving Life After TBI!!

SAVE THE DATE!

February 25-26, 2008

2008 State of the State of Traumatic Brain Injury in Alabama Conference

Cahaba Grand
Conference Center
Birmingham, AL

AHIF Volunteer Team

AHIF Volunteers are needed throughout Alabama. As a volunteer you will not only be helping others, but you will be making your own life more meaningful!

Call Sandy Koplun, Director of Community Outreach, 1-800-433-8002 or go to the AHIF website at www.ahif.org.

Contact AHIF today!



www.AHIF.org

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Link to other sites
concerning brain injury

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This newsletter has been made possible through the TBI State Implementation Grant, CFDA No. 93.234 from the federal Health Resources Service Administration Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA MCHB).